

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MBABAN 02427 180805Z
ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /005 W
-----067738 182228Z /13
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FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, WZ
SUBJECT: MOVEMENT OF SOUTH AFRICAN REFUGEE STUDENTS

REF: MBABANE 2000

1. I AM CONCERNED TO LEARN THAT KEN BEDELL, FORMERLY ASSOCIATED WITH MENNONITE TEACHING GROUP IN SWAZILAND, MAY BE PRESSING FOR USG EFFORT TO MOVE LARGE NUMBERS OF SOUTH AFRICAN REFUGEE STUDENTS OUT OF SWAZILAND. STUDENTS' WISHES REMAIN AS INDICATED IN PARA 5 OF JUNE 14 REFTEL, NAMELY, THAT STUDENTS SEEM LARGELY RESIGNED TO REMAINING HERE.

2. I QUERIED BOTH UNHCR REP SABITI AND REFUGEE SCHOOL HEADMASTER BARKMAN ON JULY 17 FOR UPDATE AND WAS TOLD THAT NONE OF THE 15 STUDENTS IN HIGHEST GRADE (FORM 5) WANT TO LEAVE SWAZILAND FOR FEAR OF LOSING YET ANOTHER ACADEMIC YEAR AS A RESULT OF CHANGING SCHOOL SYSTEMS. OF THE REMAINING 45 STUDENTS, ONLY THREE OR FOUR HAVE MADE NOISES ABOUT WANTING TO LEAVE, AND NONE OF

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THEM HAVE SAID ANYTHING ON THE SUBJECT SINCE MID-JUNE. STUDENTS HAVE GENERALLY EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT BEING RESETTLED FURTHER FROM HOME THAN THEY ARE IN SWAZILAND. THEY HAVE ALSO BECOME AWARE THAT LIVING AND SCHOOLING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEM IN OTHER COUNTRIES ARE LIKELY TO BE LESS ATTRACTIVE THAN IN SWAZILAND.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE BEING KEPT INFORMED OF BEDELL INITIATIVES
COMING TO DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION, SO WE CAN HELP HEAD OFF
ANY PUSH FOR A PROGRAM THAT FAILS TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF
STUDENTS' OWN WISHES.
WACHOB

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, STUDENTS
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Draft Date: 17 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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